

REMARKS

In the present restriction requirement, the Examiner requested an election of the following groups:

Group I, claims 1-4, 10-15, 25 and 26, drawn to an article, and

Group II, claims 16-24 drawn to a method.

Applicant hereby elect **Group I, claims 1-4, 10-15, 25 and 26 without traverse**, but reserves the right to rejoinder upon allowance of the product claims.

The Examiner also requested an election of species in view of an election of a group.

Species (a): claims 2 and 11;

Species (b): claims 3 and 13;

Species (c): claims 4 and 15;

Species (d): claims 12 and 14;

Species (e): claims 14 and 26.

The applicants hereby elect the species (a) with traverse.

With respect to the foregoing species elections, the applicants note for the record that the Examiner's presentation of species is merely different embodiments of the same invention. Moreover, the Examiner in requested election of a species (d) and (e) refers at least to one claim (that is claim 14) which is the same in both species. Therefore, applicant is unable to choose between (d) and (e).

The applicants reserve the right reserve the right to rejoin species (embodiments), should rejoinder be appropriate. Further, applicant reserves the right to rejoin the non-elected method

claims upon allowance of the product claims.

Reference cited

The Examiner cited US 4,390,567. On a preliminary note, this reference refers to metallization of a surface by a chemical method. For such means, the surface which is to be metallized is being provided with a monomer material film layer, in that the surface is contacted with a liquid medium, which contains the metallized components. Due to such contact, the metallic or metal containing component are being deposited on the surface. Only after the metallization, a treatment under vacuum with low temperature plasma follows. The method of the prior art therefore does not produce **a nano-structured transition region comprising nano-composites which is formed between the substrate material (surface) and the second material in such a way that the transition region has a layer thickness between 20 nm and 20 μ m and is predominantly formed of nano-composites**. Further, the '567 reference does not provide a ratio of substrate material to a second material in a direction transverse to the transition region which changes from predominantly substrate material in immediate vicinity of the substrate material to predominantly the second material in an immediate vicinity of the second material, with the substrate material transitioning into the second material with a nano-structure.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires any further extension of time, Applicants respectfully requests that this be considered a petition therefore. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

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